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What is Claimed is:

1. A medical apparatus comprising:

an outer surface having a side opening, the side opening for receiving tissue therethrough;

a cutter adapted to receive RF energy for cutting tissue, the cutter supported inward of the side opening and adapted to traverse a length of the side opening for cutting tissue extending through the side opening; and

a tissue stop disposed inward of the cutter;

wherein the tissue stop comprises a pole of an RF circuit.

2. The medical apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the tissue stop comprises a ground of an RF circuit.

3. The medical apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the tissue stop is deformable.

4. The medical apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the tissue stop comprises at least one vacuum opening therethrough.

5. The medical apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the medical apparatus comprises a passageway sized to receive an endoscope.

6. The medical apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the medical apparatus comprises a cutting element supported in sliding engagement with slots disposed on opposite sides of the side opening.

7. The medical apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the tissue stop is formed of an electrically conductive material.

8. The medical apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the tissue stop has a conductive material applied to one surface thereof.

9. 10. A medical apparatus comprising:

an outer surface having a side opening, the side opening for receiving tissue therethrough;

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a cutter adapted to receive RF energy for cutting tissue received through the side opening; and

a tissue stop disposed inward of the cutter, wherein the tissue stop comprises a portion of an RF circuit.

- ¹⁰~~11~~. The medical apparatus of Claim 10, wherein the medical apparatus comprises a passageway sized to receive an endoscope.
- ¹¹~~12~~. The medical apparatus of Claim 10 wherein the medial apparatus comprises a distal end opening.
- ¹²~~13~~. The medical apparatus of Claim 10 comprising a flexible sleeve for receiving an endoscope therein.
- ¹³~~14~~. A method of cutting tissue comprising the steps of:
positioning an RF cutting device in the gastro-intestinal tract of a patient;
positioning a tissue stop in the gastro-intestinal tract;
positioning a tissue mass against the tissue stop;
energizing the RF cutting device;
electrically grounding the tissue stop with respect to the RF cutting device; and
cutting a tissue sample from the tissue mass.
- ¹⁴~~15~~. The method of Claim 14 wherein the step of positioning a tissue mass against the tissue stop comprises providing a source of vacuum, and drawing the tissue mass against the tissue stop.
- ¹⁵~~16~~. The method of Claim 15 wherein the step of drawing the tissue mass comprises drawing the tissue mass through an opening having length and width.

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1627. The method of Claim 16 wherein the step of cutting the tissue sample comprises drawing an energized portion of the cutting device across a length of the opening.

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